

REMARKS

The present invention is a method of providing a skin for a user interface of a mobile communication device, a mobile communication device, a server for providing a skin for the user interface of a mobile communication device and a user interface for representing a skin on a display of a digital device. The method of providing the skin file for a user interface of a mobile device in accordance with an embodiment of the invention comprises providing a data file 21 including information defining characteristics of the skin for the user interface; providing a markup language style sheet 23 describing a manner in which data is to be displayed on a display of the mobile communication device; obtaining a skin file 24 by transforming the data file into a markup language document according to the markup language style sheets; and providing the markup language document to an interface user application 10 to cause display of the data on the display.

Claims 1-2, 4-14, 17, 19-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent 6,023,714 (Hill et al.) and United States Patent No. 6,130,933 (Miloslavsky). The Examiner reasons with respect to claim 1 as follows:

“Regarding claim 1, Hill (6023714) teaches a method of a skin (layout) for the user interface comprising providing a data file including information defining characteristics of the skin (col 2, lines 17-21), providing a markup language style sheet describing a manner in which data is to be represented on a hand-held (col 4, lines 34-40) display device (col 2, lines 20-23) and obtaining a skin file by transforming the data file into a markup language document according to the markup language style sheet (col 2, lines 24-39). Hill differs from the claim in that Hill does teach that the display device is a communication. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Miloslavsky. Miloslavsky teaches a telephone communication system (Fig. 1) that has the coordination of the telephone and data

communications between different web sites (col 2, lines 44-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Hill and Miloslavsky before him at the time the invention was made, to apply the layout generation system taught by Hill in telephone communication device taught by Miloslavsky with the motivation being to enable the system to generate layout for a phone."

The Examiner reasons with respect to claim 13 as follows:

"Regarding claim 13, Hill teaches a hand-held device comprising a transmitter/receiver circuit adapted to send and receive data over a network (col 3, lines 17-20), operating system software 35; a plurality of software applications interacting with said operating system software using a set of software components (36 in Fig. 1); and a user interface 200, said user interface including at least a display 200, wherein at least one of said plurality of software applications utilizes said user interface, including the display of data on said display, wherein said device is adapted to receive data through said transmitter/receiver circuit (col 3, lines 17-20), said data defining a skin (layout) for elements of said user interface and wherein said data displayed by said at least one of said plurality of software applications is displayed according to said skin (col 2, lines 17-24). Hill differs from the claim in that Hill does not teach that the display device is a communication. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Miloslavsky. Miloslavsky teaches a telephone communication system (Fig. 1) that has the coordination of the telephone and data communications between different web sites (col 2, lines 44-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Hill and Miloslavsky before him at the time the invention was made, to apply the layout generation system taught by Hill in telephone communication device taught by Miloslavsky with the motivation being to enable the system to generate layout for a phone."

These grounds of rejection are traversed for the following reasons:

The claimed subject matter of the above rejected claims does not have a counterpart in the combined teaches of Hill et al. and Miloslavsky. Hill et al. discloses dynamically adapting the layout of the document to a particular output device which does not provide a skin for a user interface of a mobile communication device as recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Hill et al.

utilizes a different approach to the display of documents which is that the document content is formatted to fit a particular interface of a display device which is not variable. In other words the display device has constant characteristics with the document being tailored to meet those characteristics. A style sheet is either selected or generated. See col 2 lines 14-64. The style sheet is set of instructions for formatting document content. See col 6 lines 46-53 and col 8 lines 66-67 through col 9 lines 1-2. It is therefore seen that the style sheet of Hill et al., while sharing the common name "style sheet" to identify the XSL style sheet 23 of Figure 5 of the present invention, performs a different task which is to vary the document to meet a set interface specification of the display device. It is therefore seen that Hill et al, contrary to independent 1 and 13, does not provide a skin for a user interface of the mobile communication device but instead formats a document for a fixed interface of a display device.

The Examiner incorrectly construes a skin to be a layout for elements of the user interface. All that is described by Hill et al. is the variation of a document to be displayed without any change in the display device which is not a skin and does not invoke a variable interface.

Relative to Hill et al, claim 1 differs in the following manner:

(a) Hill et al. do not have any counterpart of the "providing a skin for a variable user interface of a mobile communication device" as recited in the preamble in that there is no "skin for a user interface of a communication for the persons discussed above.

(b) Hill et al. also do not provide a data file including information defining characteristics of the skin for the variable user interface for the

reason that the data file of Hill et al., does not define characteristics of the skin for the user interface which is not variable and instead defines characteristics of the document to be displayed on the fixed display.

(c) Furthermore, Hill et al., do not describe “obtaining a skin file by transforming the data file including information defining characteristics of the skin for the variable user interface by transforming the data file into a markup language document according to the markup language style sheet.” While Hill et al., do describe that the documents may be in HTML form, the aforementioned obtaining a skin file by transforming the data file into a markup language document according the markup language style sheet is not recited.

(d) Finally, claim 1 recites providing the markup language document to the user interface application to cause display of the data on the display which has no counterpart in Hill et al. Hill et al., merely utilize the fixed interface of the output device to display the formatted document which is different than providing a markup language document to a user interface application to cause display of the data on the display.

Relative to claim 13, Hill et al differ in the following manner:

(a) There is nothing disclosed in Hill et al. involving data received through a transmitter/receiver circuit which defines a skin for elements through a variable user interface and wherein data displayed by said at least one of said plurality of software applications is displayed according to said skin. A user interface is fixed in Hill et al. regarding the display with the only the data being varied which is not a user interface.

(b) Claim 13 defines the variable user interface as including at least a

display which is varied by the variable interface and wherein at least one said plurality of software applications utilizes said user interface which cannot be met if the Examiner interprets the data to be the interface. The data does not define a skin for elements of the variable user interface which is received by the transmitter/receiver circuit as recited in claim 13.

The Examiner has relied upon the teachings of Miloslavsky to modify Hill et al. to be applicable to the communication system. However, this does cure the deficiencies noted above with regard to independent claims 1 and 13.

Claim 2 further limits claim 1 in reciting the data file is stored in the server connected to a wireless communication network providing communications to said mobile device. Claim 2 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 4 further limits claim 2 in reciting that the markup language style sheet is stored in said server. Claim 4 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 2.

Claim 5 further limits claim 4 in stating the markup language style sheet is selected by the server from among a plurality of markup language style sheets. While Hill et al. does teach a plurality of style sheets, these style sheets do not correspond to the style sheets as recited in claim 1.

Claim 6 further limits claim 5 in reciting that the markup language style sheet is selected on the basis of subscriber information and information indicating the type of mobile device. While col. 10, lines 48-49, do indicate that the layout generator selects a style sheet based on the capabilities of the output device, this does not teach the style sheet as recited in claim 1 and the

selection based on subscriber information and information indicating the type of mobile device.

Claim 7 further limits claim 2 by reciting that the transformation is performed in the server. Claim 7 is patentable for the reasons set forth above regarding claim 2.

Claim 8 further limits claim 1 in reciting that the data file includes information defining the display elements of the skin. There is no counterpart of the display elements of a skin in Hill et al. for the reasons that Hill et al. merely teach the manipulation of a document which does not have any information defining display elements when a skin is properly interpreted as discussed above with the Hill et al's display being only the manipulation of the document content.

Claim 9 further limits claim 1 in reciting that the mobile communication device includes a browser and the browser downloads the required skin sheet for the network. Hill et al do not disclose the downloading of skin data from the network.

Claim 11 further limits claim 1 in reciting the user interface application as a user interface of the browser, operating system or other user application. There is no user interface application as recited in claim 1 disclosed by Hill et al.

Claim 12 further limits claim 1 in reciting that the mobile communication device includes a processor, wherein the processor creates a skin by parsing the markup language document obtained by transforming the data file according to the markup language style sheet. The selection of a style sheet

or generation thereof by Hill et al. does not meet the subject matter of claim 12.

Claim 14 further limits claim 13 in reciting wherein one of said software application comprises a browser or other software application adapted to receive markup language documents and render said documents on said display. Claim 14 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 13.

Claim 17 further limits claim 16 in reciting wherein said browser uses said skin file to render markup language documents on said screen. While Hill et al. does have a browser 206, they do not use a skin file to render markup language documents on said screen.

Claim 19 further limits claim 13 in reciting that the operating system software is adapted to prepare a skin file from said data defining a skin for elements of said user interface and makes said skin file available to said software applications interacting with said operating system software. Hill et al. do not disclose the preparation of the skin file from the data which is received through the transmitter receiver for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 13. Accordingly claim 19 was also patentable.

Claim 20 further limits claim 19 in reciting that a plurality of software applications use said skin file made available by said operating system software. There is no counterpart of software applications using the skin file made available by operating systems software in Hill et al.

Claims 3, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hill et al., Miloslavsky and EP 0715246 (Stefik). Stefik has been cited as teaching a system for controlling the distribution and use of

composite digital work to prevent copying of materials. However, there is no basis in the record why a person of ordinary skill in the art would be lead to modify the teachings of Hill and Miloslavsky to restrict a skin file according to a digital rights management component in Stefik. The existence of the system for controlling the distribution and use of a composite digital work in Stefik does not suggest the claimed relationship. Claim 3 further limits claim 2 and claim 21 limits claim 19 in reciting that a data file includes a copy protection flag to prevent copying of the skin file. Stefik's teaching of a system for controlling a distribution and use of a composite digital work does not suggest a protection file as recited in claims 3 and 19.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hill, Miloslavsky and United States Patent 6,012,098 (Bayeh et al.). Bayeh has been cited as teaching a system for using servlets to isolate the retrieval of data which comprises the formatting data using XML. Claims 15 and 16 further limit claim 14. Bayeh, does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Hill et al regarding the limitations recited in claims 13 and 14. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by Bayeh to have a browser adapted to receive XML documents and render said XML documents on said display in the system of claims 13 and 14.

Newly submitted claims 23-30 further limit claim 1 in a manner which is not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Hill and Miloslavsky.

Claims 31-35 further limit claim 13 in a manner which is not rendered obvious by the combination of Hill et al. and Miloslavsky.

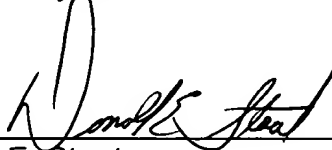
Newly submitted claims 36 and 37 define a server for providing a skin file for the user interface of a mobile communication device and a user

interface for representing a skin on a display of a digital device which is not rendered obvious by the prior art utilized in the rejection of the claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 0171.40089X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Stout", is written over a horizontal line.

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Attachments